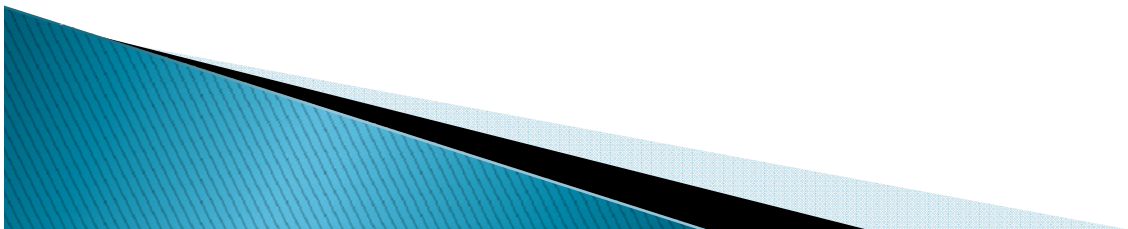


Balance for Bala

Bala Falls Power Station
An Update

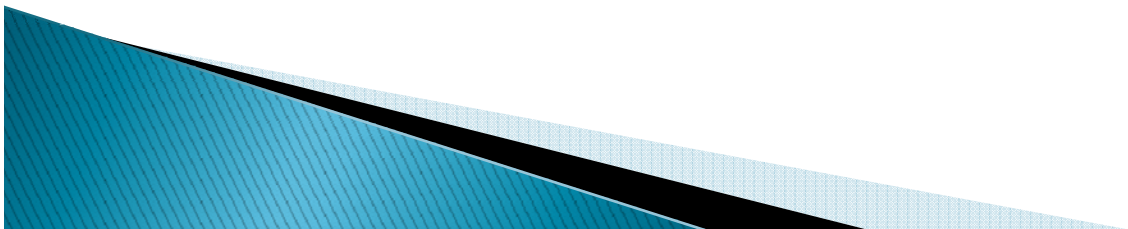
Not a Done Deal!

- ▶ Issue of tapping the energy at Bala Falls has been a very difficult issue facing MRPOA
- ▶ To date MRPOA has NOT taken a position on the proposed project
- ▶ As members of MRPOA we can and should become informed, have our views heard and formulate an official position
- ▶ That time is now



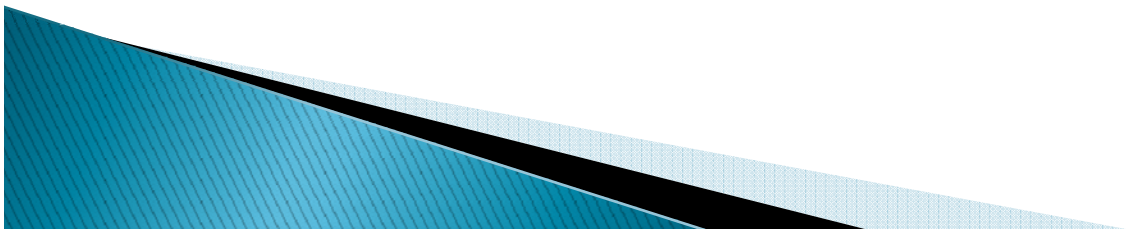
Why are we presenting today?

- ▶ Put a spotlight on this issue and ensure that everyone's voice is heard
- ▶ Put forward two Resolutions, to be voted on by the membership today, to formulate and articulate the views of the MRPOA membership
- ▶ Welcome questions at the end—have only been given 20 minutes and appreciate that people want to get outside



Who are we?

- ▶ Significant number of folks on the Moon River who are very concerned about the proposed hydro station and the lack of any focus groups or sub committees being formed within MRPOA to assess the impact thereof

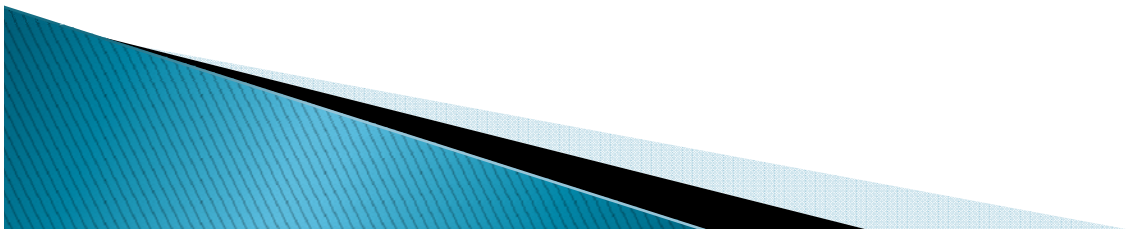


The Site

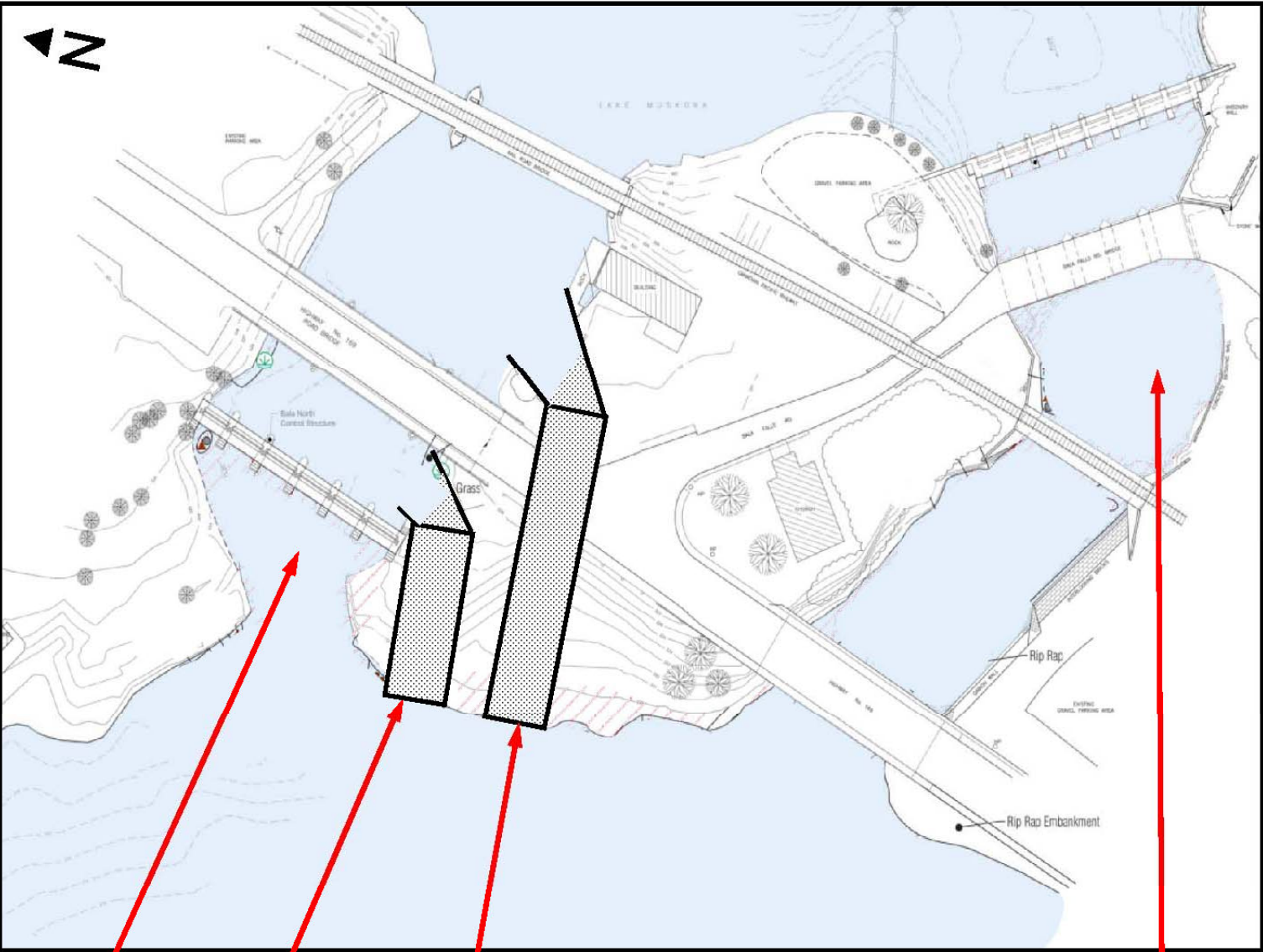


Site Release

- Site was released by MNR to Swift River Energy, subject to the Environmental Screening Process
 - Single purpose entity created solely for this proposal
 - Horizon Hydro is the majority owner
 - Karen McGhee, an independent Project Manager contracted to SREL, is here today



The Site



North Falls
and Channel

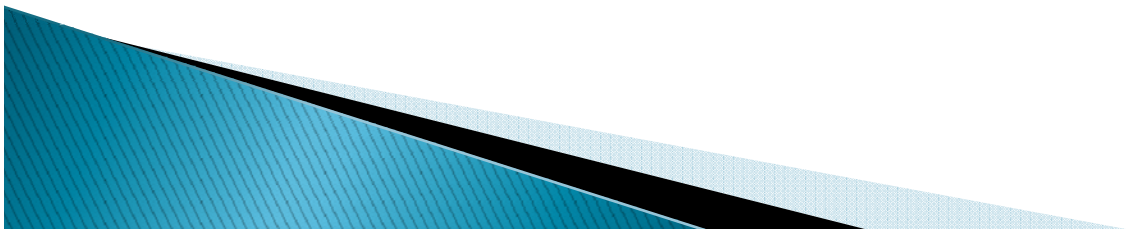
Option 1

Option 2

South Falls
and Channel

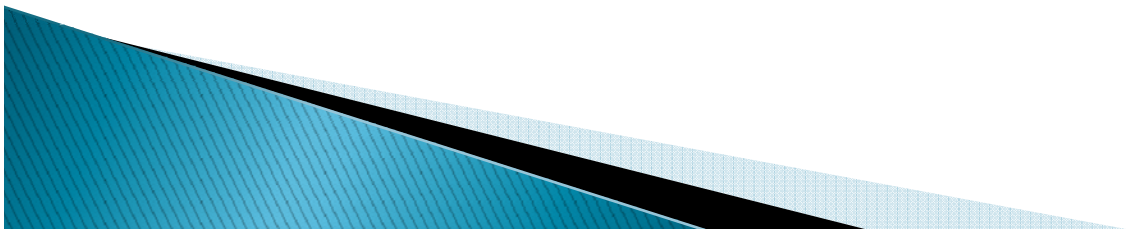
What are the Concerns?

- SREL has moved away from the original “bunker” of Option 1 to some adjacent land owned by the District of Muskoka, between the North and South channels, and this new plan is now referred to as Option 2
- All analysis to date has been focused solely on Options 1 and 2 with no consideration for alternative solutions in the South channel which for many seems a more intuitive solution



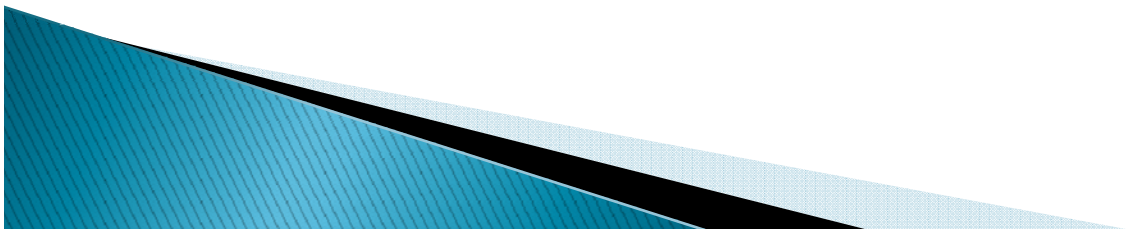
Still Many Questions Re Options 1 & 2

- Safety concerns
 - Per the OPG: “Recreational activities near hydro stations are dangerous” ...
- Negative impact on swimming, fishing, portaging at North falls and surrounding land and water
- Appearance
 - Loss of scenic flow and natural vegetation,
 - Necessity for retaining walls, fences, booms
- Financial considerations including performance bonds and a revenue royalty
- An independent evaluation of the South Channel



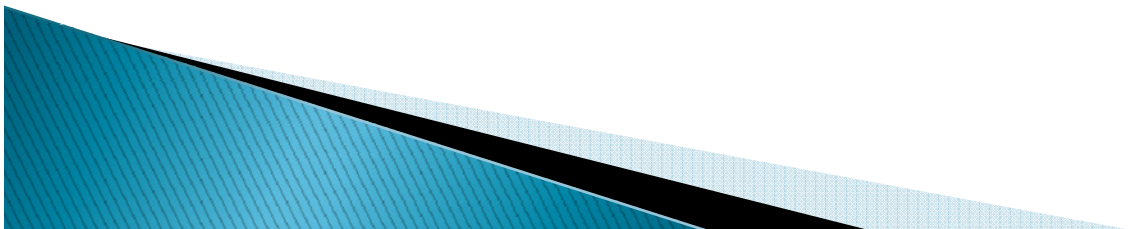
What is the Support for Option 2?

- Consideration of Option 2 was permitted by both the Township and District of Muskoka principally because it was viewed as a better alternative than Option 1
- Concern has been expressed that if Option 2 is not supported SREL will revert back to Option 1 and the community will be left with a much less desirable alternative



It is not yet a Done Deal

- The public does have a say
- Option 2 is only slightly better than Option 1 in many respects and does not address the safety, scenic flow or access and enjoyment of lands and swimming and fishing between both falls
- A “NO” to Option 2 is a “NO” to Option 1 as well— that is, if Option 2 doesn’t make it through the Environmental Screening, neither will Option 1

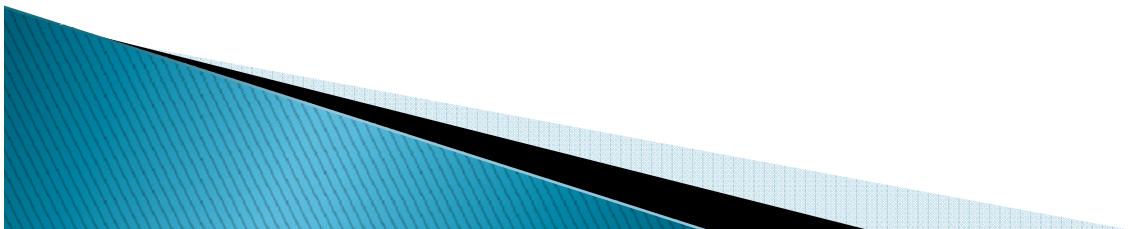


Bala Falls - South Channel

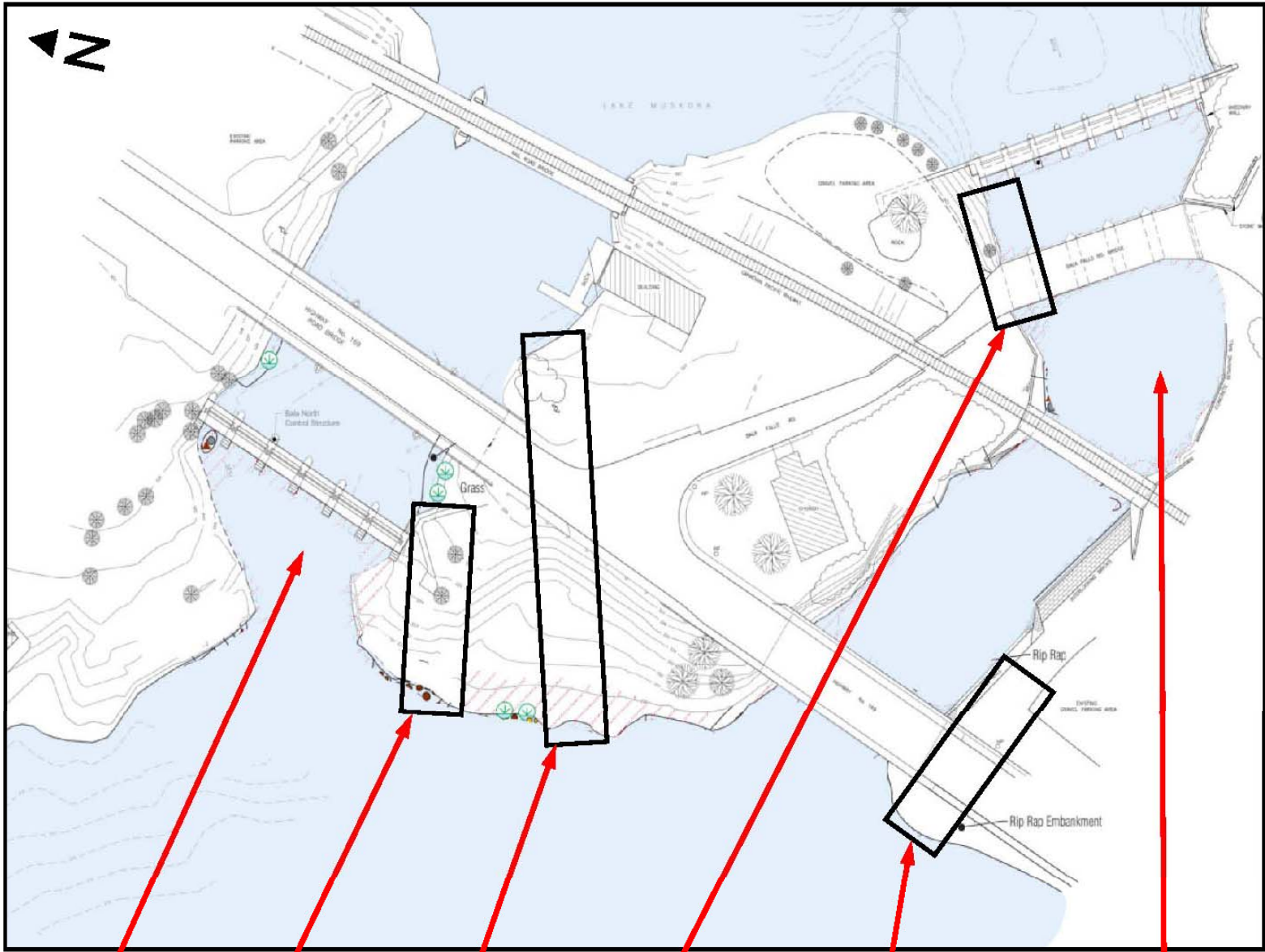


South Channel – Is It An Option?

- ▶ South Channel is considered by the Minister of Natural Resources as being part of the “site”
- ▶ Crown/District/Township does own suitable property in the South Channel



The South Channel



North Falls
and Channel

Option 1

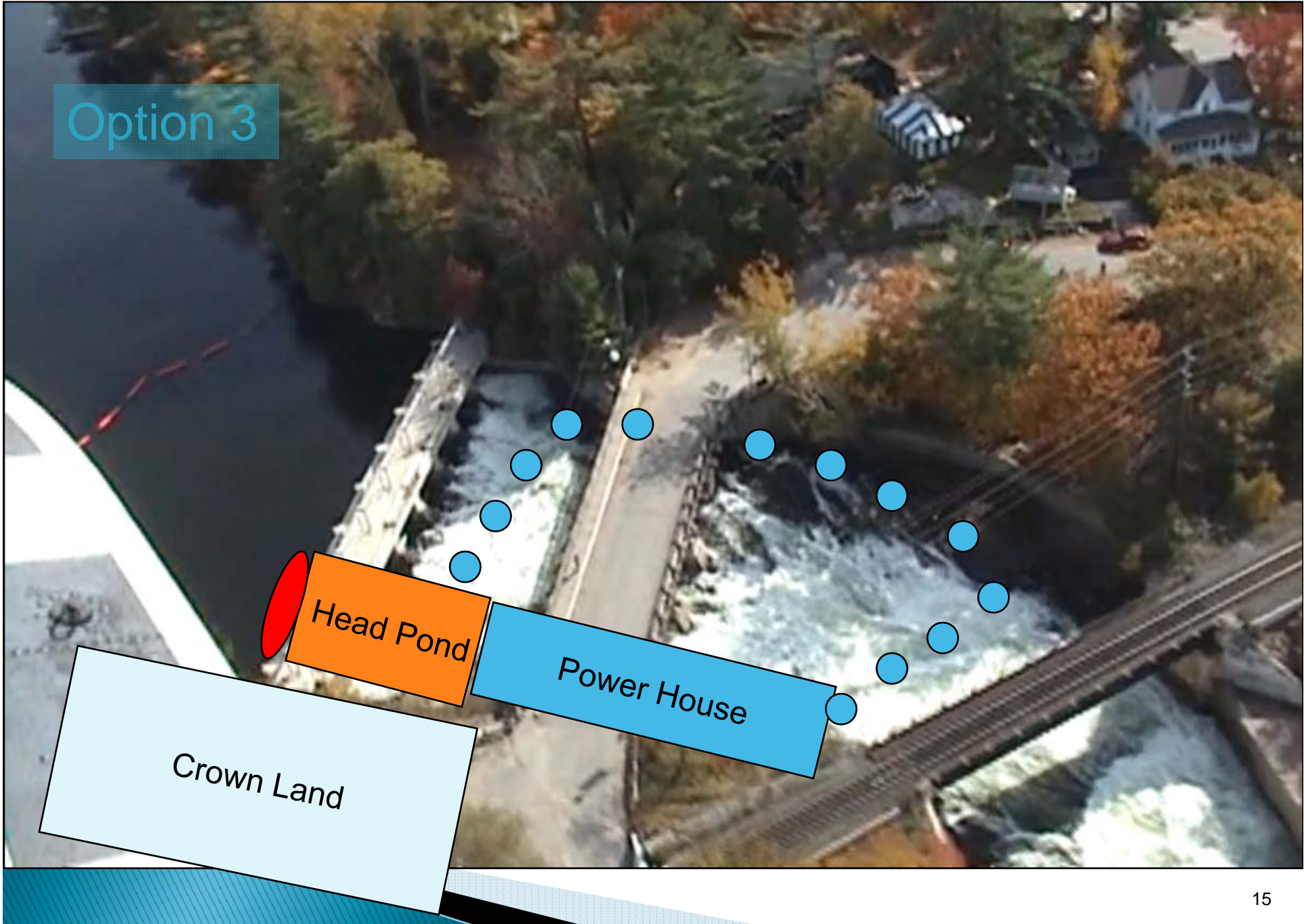
Option 2

Option 3

Option 4

South Falls
and Channel

Option 3





Option 4

South Channel Challenges

- ▶ SREL has stated they will not build in the South Channel
 - SREL has not provided any data or evidence that this alternative has been seriously considered
 - At this point the South Channel alternative has not been reviewed by any hydrology engineer at MNR, so any claims of increased flooding in Bala Bay have not been supported by any technical analysis
 - Have now met with Karen McGhee of SREL and understand that further information may be provided to us from Hatch
- ▶ May not maximize profitability to SREL
 - Looking for Balance in the community, green power plus green lands
- ▶ Construction logistics to be fully vetted
 - Right now is a crucial time to provide our input and concerns
 - Our children and grandchildren will be living with the results



What Happens Next?

- ▶ Environmental Screening Process
- ▶ Mechanism established by the Ontario government to receive stakeholder input
- ▶ Includes all aspects of the Environment, including social, economic, cultural, and extends specifically to proposed infrastructure projects such as this one
- ▶ All of the information is pulled together in an Environmental Screening Report, which has not yet been released

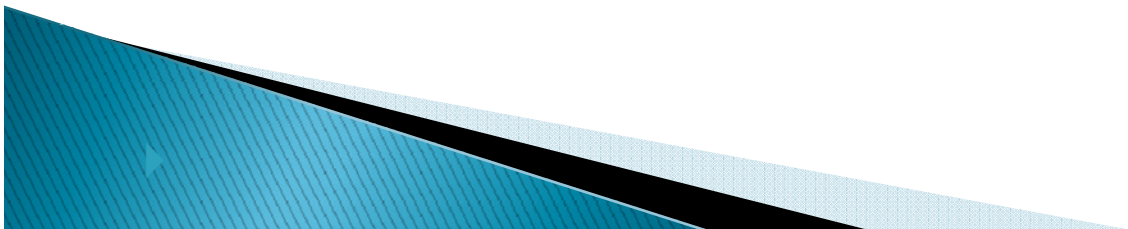
Environmental Screening Process

- ▶ The Environmental Screening process, not to be confused with the Environmental Screening report, is an exercise in mitigation meant to streamline approvals for projects that may have minimal “environmental impact”
- ▶ The process cannot reach a "refusal" only an approval and only if the developer can prove that they have sufficiently mitigated public "environmental" concerns
- ▶ A refusal, though rare, is only possible in the elevated process called individual EA



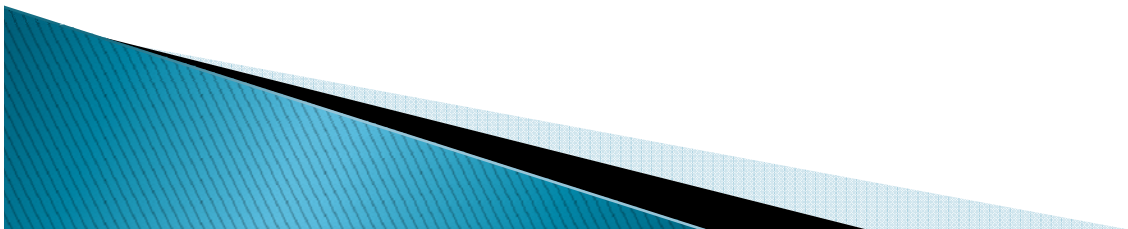
Environmental Screening Process

- ▶ SREL's environmental screening report was expected months ago, but has been delayed due to heightened interest from various provincial Ministries as well as Fisheries and Oceans Canada in response to public concern
- ▶ Very limited response period of only 30 days once the screening report is released, the date of which is still unknown
 - SREL has been asked to extend this, but have so far declined



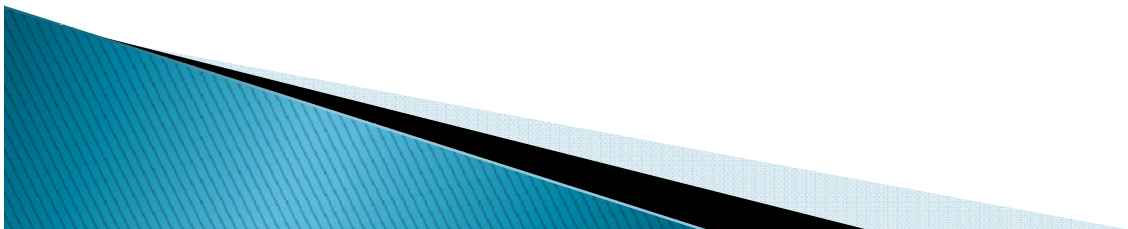
Elevation or “Bump-Up”

- ▶ Would result in the project being made subject to Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act: i.e. an individual EA
- ▶ Can be initiated by the Minister of the Environment or on a voluntary basis by the proponent itself as per B.4.1.1 of the Guide to EA Requirements for Electricity Projects



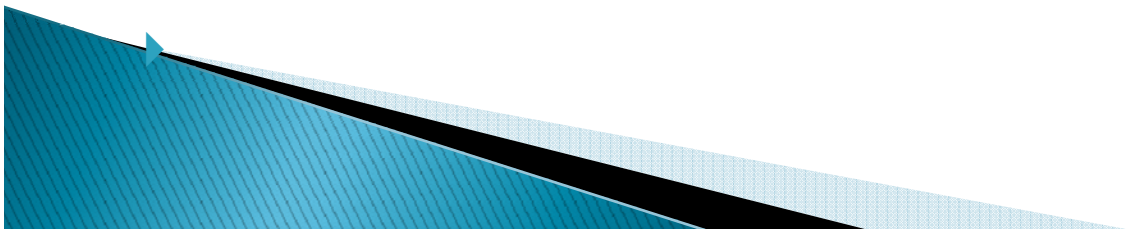
Elevation or “Bump-Up”

- ▶ Public Stakeholder Elevation
 - Can be requested by individuals or associations such as MRPOA on the basis of specific “negative environmental effects” that “will remain after mitigation and impact management measures have been applied”
 - This request would be considered by the Ministry of the Environment, but not necessarily granted, particularly if it was deemed frivolous



Specific Protocol for Requesting an Elevation:

- ▶ Must be in writing within the 30 Day review period, to the Director of the Environmental Assessment Approvals Branch
- ▶ Must be on the basis of specific, unmitigated concerns relating to Negative Environmental Effects which includes the displacement, impairment, conflict or interference with existing land uses, approved land use plans, businesses or economic enterprises, recreational uses or activities, cultural pursuits, social conditions or economic structure.



What You Can Do – Petition

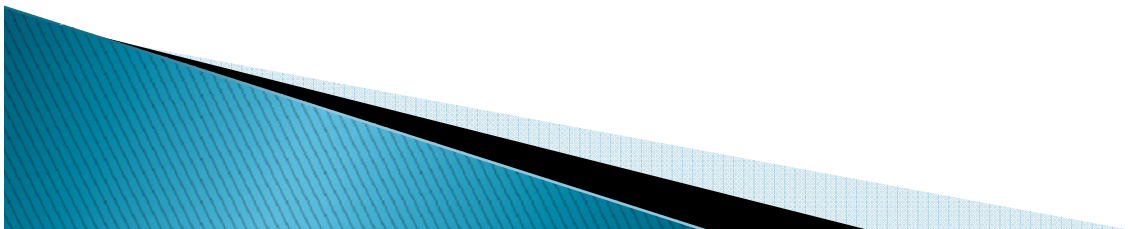
- ▶ Minister of the Environment can also request an elevation

 - Please sign the petition requesting this

PETITION		
<p>To the Minister of the Environment of Ontario:</p>		
<p>Whereas the Bala Falls (North Dam Area), herein "the site", is currently being considered for development of an Electricity project provide that the proponent completes the Environmental Screening Process; and</p>		
<p>Whereas at any point in the Environmental Screening Process, if it is determined that a project is likely to have significant negative environmental effects, and that the scope and scale of these effects are such that an individual EA is warranted, the Minister of the Environment may of his or her own initiative require that a project be made subject to Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (an individual EA). If the Minister requires an individual EA, the proponent will be informed in writing, stating reasons for the decision; and</p>		
<p>Whereas "Environment" means:</p>		
<p>(i) Air, land or water;</p>		
<p>(ii) Plant and animal life, including man;</p>		
<p>(iii) The social, economic and cultural conditions that influence the life of man or a community;</p>		
<p>(iv) Any building, structure, machine or other device or thing made by man;</p>		
<p>(v) Any solid, liquid, gas, odour, heat, vibration or radiation resulting directly or indirectly from the activities of man;</p>		
<p>or;</p>		
<p>(vi) Any part of combination of the foregoing and the interrelationships between any two or more of them.</p>		
<p>Whereas the undersigned members of the public claim that construction of a powerhouse on the site would have significant negative environmental effects.</p>		
<p>Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Minister of the Environment of Ontario as follows:</p>		
<p>That the Minister of the Environment require that the proposed Electricity project at Bala Falls be made subject to Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (an individual EA).</p>		
Name (printed)	Address (printed)	Signature

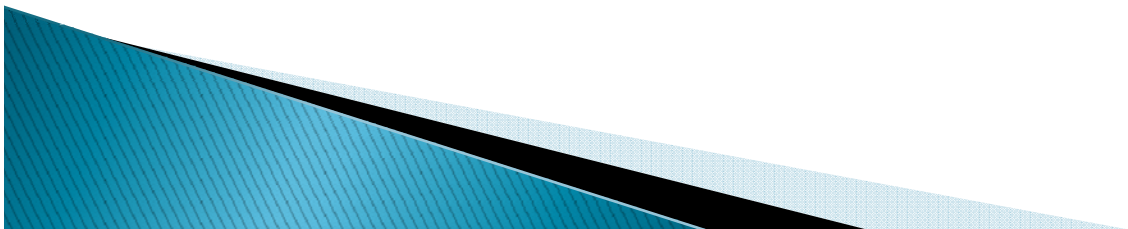
What You Can Do – Donate

- ▶ We will need to hire legal, engineering and other experts:
 - To provide input for responding to the Environmental Screening Report
 - To help prove our claims during the Individual Environmental Assessment process



What can MRPOA do?

- ▶ We need to understand the collective views of the MRPOA membership
- ▶ Form a sub-committee reportable to the membership
- ▶ Develop and circulate a survey
- ▶ Consider how we wish to respond to the ES report when it comes out
- ▶ Formulate an official MRPOA position



Resolution #1

▶ *MRPOA Notes*

- In a message from the President of MRPOA to all members, dated October 16, 2008 it was communicated that the MRPOA “Board of Directors has decided NOT to take a position on the proposed project.”
 - “Obtaining the backing of Members to a course of action would require surveying Members.”
 - “Refining appropriate questions, managing responses, and taking appropriate action would require hours and hours of work that none of the Directors is in a position to contribute.”
 - “Your Directors are concerned that our Members' views could not be fairly represented given the complexity of developing, distributing, and understanding a survey's results. ”

Resolution #1

- ▶ Accordingly *MRPOA Resolves*
 - That the members support the creation of a special purpose committee with specific reference to the proposed hydro facility at Bala Falls, the mandate of which would be to:
 - Develop and refine appropriate questions
 - Survey the membership accordingly
 - Summarize the responses
 - Communicate the results of the survey back to the membership
 - Formulate a MRPOA position relating thereto, to be ratified by the membership in a timely manner

Resolution #2

▶ *MRPOA Notes*

- Significant environmental concerns relating to the social, economic, safety and recreational aspects of the proposed hydro facility at Bala Falls remain unanswered and unmitigated.

▶ Accordingly *MRPOA Resolves*

- That the president of MRPOA, on behalf of the members of MRPOA, make a written submission forthwith to the Minister of the Environment requesting that the proposed hydro facility at Bala Falls be made subject to Part II of the Environmental Assessment Act (an individual EA)